

Serial No. 09/877,596

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REMARKS

By this amendment, the specification has been amended to add a reference number. The claims of this application stand rejected, either under §102(e) or §103(a) over Khidekel et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/027527A1. However, as set forth in the accompanying affidavit, the inventors of this application conceived of, and reduced to practice the subject disclosed and claimed, such that Khidekel et al. does not represent prior art. Accordingly, this case is in condition for allowance. Questions regarding this application may be directed to the undersigned attorney by telephone, facsimile or electronic mail to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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